

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET

INFORMATION REPORT
REFERENCE COPY

REPORT NO.

CD NO.

COUNTRY Indochina

DO NOT CIRCULATE

DATE DISTR. 14 November 1952

SUBJECT: Directing Committee of the Viet Nam Dan Chu Dang
(Democratic Party)

NO. OF PAGES 2

DATE OF INFO.

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)PLACE
ACQUIRED

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The Directing Committee of the Democratic Party (Viet Nam Dan Chu Dang) consists of the following five members:
 - a. Duong Duc Hien - Secretary-General of the Democratic Party.
 - b. Vu Dinh Hoe - Minister of Justice in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) Government.
 - c. Phan Tuan Khanh - former Secretary of the Central Vietnam Section of the Democratic Party.
 - d. Phan Hien
 - e. Do Duc Duc - manager of Doc Lap, the weekly organ of the Democratic Party.
2. Duong Duc Hien has been Secretary-General of the Democratic Party since its formation in 1940. As former president of the Students' Association in Hanoi, he is well known to Vietnamese intellectuals. Although Hien is a nominal leader, he is indecisive and completely under the thumb of the Communists. As Minister of Youth for several months shortly after the Viet Minh seizure of power, his role in the Viet Minh Government diminished from day to day. He is now controlled in the Democratic Party by Phan Tuan Khanh and Phan Hien, who clearly lean toward Communism and are supported by Communists. Khanh and Hien represent the majority wing of the Democratic Party.
3. The reactionary minority of the Democratic Party is represented by Vu Dinh Hoe and Do Duc Duc.¹ Although this faction is supported by many intellectuals, its total membership represents only a very small minority of the Party.

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET

[illegible]

SECRET

25X1

- 2 -

4. With the emergence of the Lao Dong Party in April 1951, the Communists used the slogan "Power to the farmers and laborers!" At several meetings of DRV leaders Vu Dinh Hoe sought to promote the point of view of his supporters: "Coalition of classes." Hoe's views were violently attacked by the Communists, especially at the "Congress of Magistrates" which took place in September 1951. At this Congress Hoe was openly bullied and abused by his subordinate Tran Cong Tuong, Secretary of State for Justice and a Communist. Since then Hoe has remained as titular Minister of Justice, but has lost all of his powers to Tuong. In addition, the DRV Government has discontinued all subsidies to Doc Lap, which has no other source of income.
5. Nevertheless, during the last few months the Lao Dong Party seems to have reversed its policy. Vu Dinh Hoe has just been appointed Vice-President of a DRV mission to Peiping.

1. Comment. Hoe is a former journalist, former DRV Minister of National Education, and currently DRV Minister of Justice. Duc has been manager of Doc Lap since the magazine was founded.

SECRET